

MANAGING THE BOOM

Challenge

All local governments struggle with managing information about their communities. Finding ways to analyze, update and maintain data can be vital to fast-growing communities like Avon, Indiana. The town has been experiencing explosive growth since its incorporation in 1995, but has had limited data on its infrastructure. The paper maps constantly needed to be updated, and there were no maps of the drainage infrastructure. The Town needed a way to track and manage its own growth.

Action

Avon opted to start with a stormwater system inventory. Using GPS units, they collected locations for pipes, ditches, inlets, and other components. At the same time, they were able to gather additional data like pipe sizes, conditional assessments, and flow direction.

The Town then contracted for the development of a desktop GIS system. They overlaid the information from the stormwater system inventory onto existing aerial photography and base maps provided by the County. Within six months, Avon had a fully operational GIS.

Since then, Avon has improved operations by continuing to add data and software. to their GIS. Planning and zoning applications and a pavement management system have been developed. The Town is also incorporating GIS into its management of police, public works, parks, and planning.



Using their GIS, Avon city planners can see the effects - and potential effects - of growth on infrastructure

Results

- Town officials can see how proposed developments will impact the existing drainage system - they now know exactly what infrastructure they have and how much growth it can tolerate.
- Avon took a first, substantial step toward a citywide GIS, which they are now leveraging for the benefit of other municipal service providers.
- Town and County were able to cooperate to enable data sharing with each other and the public.
- The inventory made planning and prioritizing maintenance and repairs much faster and more efficient.